



## Two Steps Forward, One Step Back

—By Robert KA5WSS

Just when we thought we might be turning the corner in this pandemic, the Coronavirus snapped back into the forefront of people's minds. On Saturday, August 7th we were supposed to have had our first VOMARC picnic since 2019. But just days before the event there were widespread concerns about gathering in numbers, even if it was outdoors. A quick poll of the membership showed about 80% were not planning on attending because of COVID. So we had to cancel. Hopefully this current surge will be the last major spike.

Given the rise of the delta variant of COVID that means we'll be continuing with Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future as well. I think we've all gotten fairly good at making them work and networked meetings open up the speaker pool by a significant margin. If you're still unsure about how the meetings work, check out our [Zoom meeting help page](#).

We have a number of speakers lined up in the months ahead but I could not fill up the August slot. So I'll be presenting on Award Hunting. Paper chasing is one of the things I enjoy with Ham Radio and I hope to pass on

some idea about why it holds my interest for multiple reasons. Looking for a new challenge to break out of your routine? There's an award for that!

I think we'll also quickly go over the new ARRL RF Exposure Calculator that you can read about later in this newsletter

### NEXT MEETING

Wed, August 18, 2021, 7:30pm

Zoom meeting room info will be emailed later.

**Topic:** Award hunting

### Minutes of the July 21 Meeting

Meeting was held together on ZOOM by KA5WSS

Members: KA5WSS (Robert), KD6FIL (Dave), KG6QNT (Eileen), KE6HID (Andrew), W8EWL (John), N7TSQ (Joe), N6LY (Elizabeth), K6YD (Kevin), N6TTV (Carl), NJ6E (Stan), W1EJ (Ed), N7PIB (Sandford), K6ZMF (Jack), KB6DTL (Steve)

Guest: None

Meeting called to order at 19:31 by KA5WSS

### MINUTES

Minutes from the June meeting accepted as written.

### NEWS LETTER EDITOR

Please caption photos if you are sending any for the newsletter. It makes things much easier.

## **VE LIAISON**

VE Session is scheduled for August 28. Planning on 10 candidates per session. Need to RSVP. Plan to use the Sonoma PD Training Room.

## **RADIO OFFICER**

No Report

## **STATION TRUSTEE**

No Report

## **TREASURER**

VOMARC set it up to accept dues online.  
Still have not purchased a printer.

## **SECRETARY**

No Updates. The VOMARC Breakfast on the Air is going well.

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

No Report

## **PRESIDENT**

Logs for Field Day need to be submitted. The Clubs submittal was done.

VOMARC Log from Field Day were uploaded to LOTW.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

August meeting – No items have been set and it is a good time for a BBQ meeting. Details to follow.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

VOMARC Hamfest – scheduled for October 2 at the Congregational Church on Spain Street thanks to WD6BOR's efforts. More details to follow. Website has been updated to reflect the upcoming event.

KI6JNU coordinating the Boy Scouts doing JOTA on October 15-17. More information to follow.

Point Reyes Lighthouse on the Air is being coordinated by KG6N and is scheduled for August 21.

The Sonoma County DMR net is still going at 1830 on Thursdays on talk group 31707.

**MYSTERY BOX:** Jack, K6ZMF has the box and the Mystery Box program is on hold for a while

**Next Month's Program:** ~~BBQ — Details to follow~~  
**CANCELED DUE TO INCREASED COVID-19 RISK**

**PROGRAM:** Video of the VP8ORK DXpedition.

Meeting adjourned at 2015ish.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

## **VE Liasion News**

—By Elizabeth N6LY

Time to upgrade?

Our next test date is fast approaching. If you are interested in testing, please be sure to reserve a space.

Space is limited, however we still have room in the 10 AM session. If that fills up, we will have another session at 12:30.

We are still practicing COVID safety pre-cautions, due to recent increases with the variant.

Everyone is required to wear a mask.

Candidates should bring their own pens and pencils.

Tables and chairs will be sanitized before and after.

Testers will be spaced 6 feet apart.

We would prefer candidates to be vaccinated.

Let me know if you want to test.

*(Continued on next page.)*

# Saturday, August 28, 2021

Sponsor: Valley of the Moon ARC

Time: 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM if there is enough demand (**Reservations required**)

Contact: Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey (N6LY)

Email: n6ly.emm (at) [gmail.com](mailto:n6ly.emm@gmail.com)

Location: Sonoma Police Station EOC room  
126 1st St W, Sonoma

For Exams at other locations check the [ARRL website](https://www.arrl.org).

## Candidate Requirements:

- A photo identification or (2) non-photo ID's
- [FCC Registration Number](#)
- Original and a photocopy of your current license (if licensed)
- Any original valid CSCE's and a photocopy of each
- Radiotelegraph license, if held (see VE)
- Exam fee is \$15.00.

## COVID-19 Requirements

To ensure the health and safety of all applicants and examiners, for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic the following requirements also apply. There will be no exceptions to these requirements.

- All candidates must reserve a spot ahead of time via email. See contact info above.
- Sessions limited to six applicants at a time.
- All participants must wear a mask (covering both the mouth and nose) and gloves.
- Candidates must bring their own pens and pencils.
- Chairs and desks will be sanitized before each session.

## Why Test With Us?

Every candidate who takes an FCC examination with VOMARC is entitled to a free year's worth of membership in the club, regardless of whether you pass or not! Each applicant is also provided with a welcome kit of some helpful information on how to get started on their Amateur Radio adventure.

## W6AJF WAS

I uploaded the latest [W6AJF Field Day](#) logs to Logbook of the World (LoTW). Unfortunately, this new batch of QSOs didn't net any additional states towards the club's [Worked All States](#) (WAS) award. We're still stuck at 46 states confirmed. We're missing the usual suspects of Delaware, Maine, North Dakota and Rhode Island.

WAS Award	New LoTW QSLs	LoTW QSLs in Process	WAS Credits Awarded	Total
<a href="#">Mixed</a>	46	0	0	46
<a href="#">80M</a>	8	0	0	8
<a href="#">40M</a>	23	0	0	23
<a href="#">20M</a>	43	0	0	43
<a href="#">15M</a>	13	0	0	13
<a href="#">10M</a>	1	0	0	1
<a href="#">CW</a>	41	0	0	41
<a href="#">Phone</a>	44	0	0	44

If anyone has logs for previous Field Day or lighthouse events please let me know.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

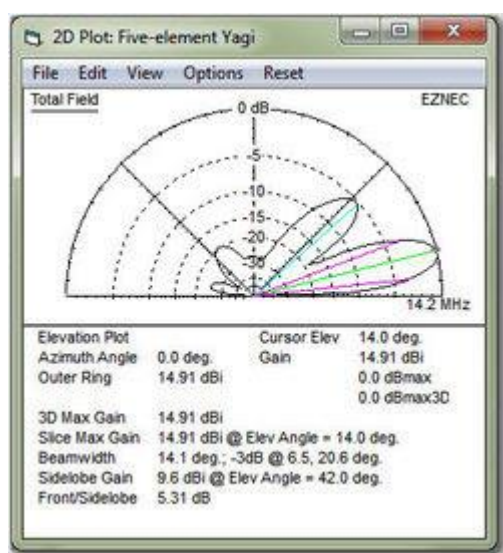
## Who's Doing What

You may notice this column is a bit sparse. Much of it used to be filled in by me while listening in on the VOMARC Breakfast nets. My new work hours prevent me from joining that net. Can someone else take the helm and take a few notes to send to Eileen so others can find out what everyone is up to?

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## Misc

- The news of the demise of the Bouvet Island Dxpedition may have been greatly exaggerated. The Intrepid-DX Group [announced](#) they had found alternate transportation and are in contract negotiations.
- Roy Lewallen (W7EL) says he is [retiring](#) from developing the popular [EZNEC](#) antenna modeling software package. Starting on January 1, 2022, EZNEC Pro/2 will be free, and may be copied and distributed.



- The 40th annual [ARRL-TAPR Digital Communications Conference](#) (DCC) will be held online September 17 - 18.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## ARRL Now Provides Free RF Exposure Calculator

The FCC has adopted guidelines and procedures for evaluating environmental effects of RF emissions. The new guidelines incorporate two tiers of exposure limits based on whether exposure occurs in an occupational or "controlled" situation, or whether the general population is exposed or exposure is in an "uncontrolled" situation.

Under the new FCC rules, some amateurs need to perform routine station evaluations to ensure that their stations comply with the RF exposure rules. This can be as simple as running an online calculator to determine the minimum safe distance between any part of your antenna and areas where people might be exposed to RF energy from your station. Although amateurs can make measurements of their stations, evaluations can also be done by calculation.

To make this easy for amateurs, ARRL now provides an [RF exposure calculator](#) on its RF Exposure page. To use the calculator, enter your transmit peak-envelope power (PEP) and operating mode, and answer the questions about the maximum amount of time you might be transmitting. The calculator will give you the minimum distance people must be from your antenna and human exposure.

You can print the results and keep them in your station records. There is no requirement to send your results to the FCC.



—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL



## Parks on the Air Fun and Adventures

Kevin (K6YD) and I (N6LY) went to a few parks for Park on the Air (POTA), in July. So far we haven't activated any, as we haven't made the 10 QSOs required. We have had fun, operating remotely, seeing what our portable setup can do and getting outdoors.

Earlier in July, we went to Point Reyes Seashore. We found a few nets, but didn't get any POTA QSOs. Too foggy maybe.

Later in July, we went to Fort Ross. We made 7 QSOs, including one of our club members. Yay, thank you Carl (N6TTV) for finding us. Pretty excited that we had 2 QSOs from Oregon.

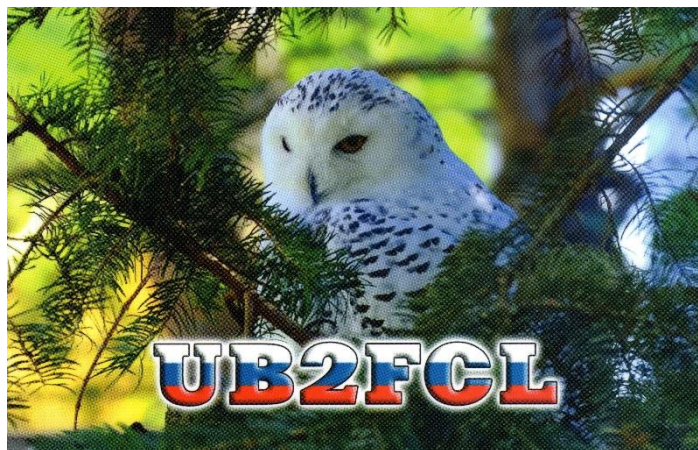
Fort Ross is an interesting place to visit and it was fun trying.



—Submitted by Elizabeth N6ly



# QSL Card Inbox



Kaliningrad is part of Russia, but counts as a separate [DXCC](#) entity because of its isolation. I worked UB2FCL on 80M using FT8 and my signal barely registered there at -24db!



This card from Oman represents an all time new one (ATNO) for me for DXCC credit. The 20M contact was made with FT8.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## THE VOMARC WIRELESS

### VOLUME 25 EDITION 8

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

*“Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.”—S. Marler*

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

**Breakfast Nets** are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

[Eileen@vom.com](mailto:Eileen@vom.com)

—OR—

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

**2021 ACS  
NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2021 VOMARC  
NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

## VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2021

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1<sup>st</sup> St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.